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WEATHER

MAX: 28.8°C
MIN: 19.2°C
RH: 42%
RAINFALL: 0MM
FORECAST: PARTLY CLOUDY SKY
MAX/MIN temp. 29/19°C

Brief Insights

Indian Embassies in Gulf, Iran issue safety advisories amid regional crisis

As tensions in the region escalated, the Embassy of India in Doha issued an "important advisory", asking all Indian nationals in Qatar to take due care and follow news and advisories as and when issued by the Embassy and local authorities.

"In view of the current regional situation, all Indian nationals in Qatar are advised to take due care, fol-

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Shiv Sena (UBT) Refuses To Leave RS Seat For Sharad Pawar

The Shiv Sena (UBT) appears reluctant to cede a Rajya Sabha seat to Sharad Pawar, signalling potential friction within the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) ahead of the upcoming elections. On Friday, Aaditya Thackeray and Varun Sardesai asserted that while Mr. Pawar is a "tall leader", it is equally important for the Shiv Sena (UBT) to maintain its own voice in national politics.

Sources indicated that the younger Thackeray is keen on securing the Rajya Sabha berth for Priyanka Chaturvedi. Based on their current strength in the Maharashtra Assembly, the MVA consti-

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KTR Alleges Hyderabad Neglect Under Congress Rule: P3

What Are Iran's Ballistic Missile Capabilities?: P4

Government Reverses Sharada Peetham Land Takeover Move: P2

U.S.-Israel Strikes Hit Iran ; Tehran Fires Back at Bases and Israel

Massive Operation Targets Nuclear, Missile Sites – Retaliation Strikes U.S. Bases in Gulf, Israel

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

The United States and Israel launched coordinated large-scale airstrikes on Iran starting late February 28, hitting military bases, nuclear facilities, missile sites, air defenses, and command centers across cities like Tehran, Isfahan, Natanz, Fordow, and others. President Donald Trump described the campaign—codenamed Operation Epic Fury by the U.S. and Roaring Lion by Israel—as "major combat operations" to eliminate Iran's nuclear ambitions, destroy its ballistic missile program, neutralize naval threats, and weaken proxy networks threatening the region.

Explosions lit up multiple provinces overnight, with Iranian reports of over 200 deaths and hundreds injured in the initial waves. The strikes followed failed nuclear negotiations and built on prior U.S.-Israeli actions, including last year's attacks that degraded parts of Iran's program. Iran retaliated swiftly, launching barrages of ballistic mis-



DUBAI



Tehran



Bahrain

India Urges Restraint in U.S.-Israel-Iran Conflict

NEW DELHI: India voiced deep concern over the escalating U.S.-Israel strikes on Iran and Tehran's retaliatory missile attacks, calling on all parties to exercise maximum restraint and prioritize civilian safety. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) stated: "India is deeply concerned at the recent developments in Iran and the Gulf region. We urge all sides to exercise restraint, avoid escalation, and prioritise the safety of civilians. Dialogue and diplomacy should be pursued to de-escalate tensions and address underlying issues. Sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states must be respected." **CONTINUE ON | PAGE 4**

siles and drones toward Israel and U.S. military bases in the Gulf region—including Al Udeid in Qatar, facilities in Bahrain, Kuwait, UAE, and Jordan. Israeli defenses intercepted most incoming threats, with re-

ports of limited injuries and damage. U.S. Central Command noted successful interceptions and minimal casualties at bases so far.

Trump urged Iranians to seize the moment for change, stating the opera-

tion aims to give them a path to freedom. Israeli officials emphasized removing existential threats to the country.

Congress is divided, with calls for briefings and War Powers compliance. Internationally, some allies back curbing Iran's capabilities, while others condemn the escalation and urge de-escalation.

The UN Security Council held an emergency session. Operations continue, with analysts expecting prolonged strikes.

Airspace restrictions, internet disruptions in Iran, and civilian alerts persist as the conflict risks broader involvement.

Modi Links Congress to Muslim League, Maoists

PM Modi Attacks Congress Over Shirtless Protest

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Attacking the Congress over its youth wing's "shirtless protest" at the AI summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said the opposition party has become "Muslim League-Maoist Congress", which does not let go of any opportunity to malign the country. The Muslim League's hatred towards India was the reason for the Partition and today, the Congress is acting in the same manner, Modi said at a rally at Kayad Vishram Sthal in Rajasthan's Ajmer.

He was in Ajmer to lay the foundation stones of and inaugurate various development works worth over Rs 16,600 crore. When the world praises India, it fills Indians with pride. The Congress, however, attempts to insult the nation on global platforms, the prime minister said. "When the world speaks well of India, every Indian feels proud. But the Congress tried to create drama and defame the country before foreign dignitaries," he said, referring to the "shirtless



protest" by the Indian Youth Congress (IYC) at the recently concluded India AI Impact Summit in Delhi.

During the summit, IYC workers entered the venue on February 20 wearing or holding white T-shirts with images of Modi and US President Donald Trump printed on them, along with slogans such as "India-US Trade Deal", "Epstein Files" and "PM is compromised". The protesters also scuffled with security personnel and police staff deployed at the venue. Several people, including IYC president Uday Bhanu Chib, were arrested in connection with the protest. Chib has been granted bail in the case. "The Congress has been continuously losing (elections) across the country, and due to its anger, it is taking revenge by tarnishing India's image," Modi

said.

There was a time when INC stood for the Indian National Congress, he said. "The Indian National Congress no longer exists in that form. Today, it has become MMC -- Muslim League-Maoist Congress," he said. History bears witness to the Muslim League's hatred towards India. It was the reason behind India's partition. Today, the Congress is doing the same, he said. "Maoists, too, resent India's prosperity, our Constitution, and our successful democracy. They carry out ambush attacks. Similarly, the Congress sneaks in anywhere it can to malign the nation. The country will never forgive such actions of the Congress," he added.

The prime minister further said that defaming the country and weakening the armed forces has been an old habit of the Congress. "The Congress had left our soldiers longing for weapons and uniforms. This is the same Congress that deprived the families of our soldiers of One Rank, One

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CM Revanth Announces 99-day "Praja Palana-Pragati Pranalika"

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana



Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Saturday laid special focus on clearing of pending files during the 99-day 'Praja Palana - Pragati Pranalika' from March 6 to June 12. The programme is intended to take government schemes, development works and public welfare initiatives closer to people. The Chief Minister also directed all departments to undertake sanitation and cleanliness drives in offices from the village level upwards during the period, while speaking at

a review meeting with principal secretaries and secretaries here. The Chief Minister directed officials to prepare a detailed schedule for the programme, the Chief Secretary is to design a special logo and draw up a comprehensive calendar for the 99-day programme.

Calling June 2, Telangana Formation Day, a festival

for four crore people of the state, he asked officials to conduct the programme in the run-up to the celebrations. He said decisions taken in files must translate into results on the ground and directed the administrative machinery to work with a single objective to ensure direct delivery of benefits. He stated that he would personally monitor the progress of the programme and conduct regular reviews. Warning that lapses in performance would not be tolerated, he stressed inter-departmental coordination for effective implementation.

AAIB Report: Low Visibility, Airfield Lapses Led to Ajit Pawar Crash

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) on Saturday released its preliminary report on the Baramati plane crash that killed Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar and four others. The 22-page report said the accident occurred at an uncontrolled airfield operating only under Visual Flight Rules (VFR). At the time of landing, visibility was reported at

3 km—below the minimum 5 km required for VFR operations.

In its recommendations, the AAIB said the aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) should issue directions to all operators flying VFR to uncontrolled airfields to strictly adhere to prescribed standard operating procedures. It also advised that aerodrome operators handling such airfields ensure flying operations—including non-

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Afghanistan Says Pak Fighter Jet Down as Cross-border Strikes Flare

KABUL
Wakeup telangana

A Pakistani fighter jet crashed in Jalalabad in Afghanistan's east, the Afghan military and police said on Saturday, after Islamabad launched air strikes on at least three cities in a flare-up of cross-border fighting. The United States voiced its diplomatic support for Pakistan's actions after Islamabad said it would not stop strikes that were meant to pressure an Afghan government that it accuses of backing militancy.

The Taliban government



has denied harbouring militants and its spokesperson has called for "dialogue" to resolve a previously simmering conflict that Pakistan's defence minister said on Friday was now "open

war". An AFP journalist heard a jet flying over Jalalabad, followed by the sound of two explosions from the direction of the city's airport.

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Firecracker Factory Blast in AP Kills 20; 10 Critical

The explosion occurred at Suryasri Fireworks Center, located next to the Godavari Canal in the Vetlapalem

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Twenty people, including eight women, were killed and 10 others critically injured in a massive explosion at a firecracker unit at Vetlapalem in Samalkot mandal of Kakinada district on Saturday afternoon. The blast occurred at the Surya Sri Crackers located amidst paddy fields. While the owner Adabala Arjunudu is missing his father Srinivasa

Rao who was supervising the manufacture of crackers was found dead at the spot. The injured were taken to the Government General Hospital in Kakinada, while bodies of the deceased were shifted to the Community Health Centre at Samalkot for post-mortem.

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu who rushed to the spot announced ₹20 lakh compensation to each of the family of the deceased in addition to the



₹2 lakh compensation given by the Centre. He also suspended four officials — Peddapuram revenue divisional officer K. Sriramani, Peddapuram DSP Srihari Raju, Deputy Labour Commissioner V.S.M. Vali and district fire officer—for their lapses

in supervising firecracker units. He consoled the family members of the deceased at the spot and later visited the Government General Hospital at Kakinada and spoke to the victims under going treatment. Officials were unsure of what caused the

blast.

However, sources said the cause of the blast was due to stocking of excess raw material and carelessness while handling the highly explosive substance. As per the licence, the owner had permission to stock up to 15 kg of material. But the factory stored additional stocks in view of the festivals in Jaggampeta mandal and weddings in the area. More than 50 persons were engaged in making

firecrackers at the unit. The explosion was so loud that people of nearby villages panicked and came out of their houses. Kakinada district collector S. Shan Mohan, superintendent of police G. Bindu Madhav, RDO S. Mallibabu and others reached the spot and supervised the rescue operations. Fire personnel extinguished the fire though the blasts continued for some time.

CONTINUE ON | PAGE 4

ESTD-1960

ASTORIA HOTEL

Hyderabad Laziz Biryani

ek baar khaoge baar baar aaooge

5-9-8 / C AG OFFICE ROAD, OPPOSITE TO RBI, HYDERABAD

Government Reverses Sharada Peetham Land Takeover Move

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

In a swift political turnaround, the Telangana government on Saturday withdrew its controversial attempt to take over land belonging to Sharada Peetham at Neopolis in Kokapet, with Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy directing officials to ensure the property remains with the Peetham following mounting objections and public outcry.

The development came after former minister T. Harish Rao rushed to the temple premises early Saturday morning upon learning about the heavy deployment of police and revenue officials at the site since Friday night. Officials had reportedly arrived to take



possession of the land and demolish structures at the temple as part of a proposed transfer to the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB). Temple authorities alleged that staff were denied permission to perform regular pujas, further escalating tensions.

As the issue gained political attention, representatives of Sharada

Peetham met the Chief Minister at the Secretariat. Revanth Reddy stated that he had not been informed about the proposed land transfer and expressed anger at officials for proceeding without his knowledge. He immediately directed authorities to cancel the allotment made to the Water Board and continue the earlier land allocation granted to the Peetham.

According to a press release issued by the Chief Minister's Office, a high-level review meeting was held to assess the situation. The Chief Minister also instructed Peetham representatives to meet Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu and brief him on the current status of structures, constructions and other developments at the site to ensure clarity in official records.

Earlier, the HMWSSB had initiated steps to acquire an additional 3.95 acres at Khanapur for infrastructure development linked to the Godavari Drinking Water Supply Project phases II and III, aimed at meeting increasing drinking water needs in the rapidly urbanising Kokapet-Neopolis region. The Board

had already been allotted 8.75 acres for constructing a 22.5 ML Master Balancing Reservoir, two Elevated Level Service Reservoirs and allied facilities but later sought additional land, including nearly two acres belonging to the Peetham.

Harish Rao stated that the land had been officially allotted to Sharada Peetham in 2019 during the previous BRS government for construction of the Rajashyamala temple, with registration fees duly paid and the temple subsequently built. Calling the move an attack on religious sentiments, he warned that the BRS would launch protests if any attempt was made to demolish the temple or alter the allotment.

Illegal sand extraction near Annaram barrage pillars raises safety concerns

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

In blatant violation of rules and regulations, sand is being extracted near the pillars of the Annaram barrage, triggering serious concerns over the stability and safety of the structure.

This comes after Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy assured that repairs would be taken up at the Medigadda barrage, Sundilla barrage and Annaram barrages, and that they would not be allowed to fall into disrepair.

However, in sharp contrast to the Chief Minister's assurances, unauthorised sand extraction is reportedly continuing near the Annaram barrage. Despite strict regulations prohibiting such activity, illegal extraction and transportation of sand are continuing unabated.

As per regulations, sand extraction is not permitted within 500 metres upstream or downstream of the barrage. However, a video circulating on social media shows a few individuals extracting sand very close to the barrage pillars.

Although there are clear restrictions on the movement of vehicles and trucks into the riverbed, the video shows unauthorised



ised sand extraction near the pillars, involving a large contingent of earth-movers and trucks engaged in these operations.

There are also allegations that some local leaders from the ruling Indian National Congress party are involved in these irregularities. While leaders from Karimnagar were reportedly involved in illegal sand extraction in the upstream areas, those from Nalgonda were allegedly continuing similar operations downstream.

Raja Gopuram Foundation Laid at Temple

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The foundation stone for the construction of the Raja Gopuram at Sri Sri Ganga Parameshwari Panchamukhi Anjaneya Swamy Temple in Sabjmandi was ceremonially laid today by Sri Sri Hampi Peethadhipathi Vidyaranya Bharathi Swami amid religious rituals and devotional fervour.

The programme witnessed participation from several devotees and members of the



Gangaputra Sangam. Gangaputra Sangam President Dorthula Srinivas and General Secretary Anandisi Venu Babu attended along with Vice Presidents Nasa Narsing Rao and Keshavulu.

Temple Committee President Gurram Sivashankar, Katta Sivaraju, Treasurer Tattari Hemanth, and office bearers of both the Gangaputra Sangam and the Gopuram Construction

Committee actively took part in the puja ceremonies. The construction of the Raja Gopuram is expected to enhance the temple's spiritual significance and architectural grandeur.

Re-Consecration Ceremony Held at Dwimukha Anjaneya Swamy Temple in Chandrayangutta

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

A grand spiritual ceremony was conducted at the Dwimukha Anjaneya Swamy Temple in Barkas, Chandrayangutta Assembly constituency, following a recent attack by miscreants. The rituals were led by Sri Sri Swami Durgananda Puri, Peethadhipathi of Math Annapooreshwari Kashi Vishwanath Peetham. The program included



Ganapathi Puja, Punya Vachanam, Temple Samprokshanam, Maha Panchamruta Abhishekam, Sindoor Lepam, Aaku Puja and Maha Harathi,

followed by Anna Prasadam distribution to devotees. Prominent leaders including T. Raja Singh, Chikoti Praveen, Niranjan

Yadav, and several BJP leaders participated in the event. Pandarinath Aedla, General Secretary of BJP Bhagyanagar District, played a key role in the program's coordination. His active involvement reflected commitment towards preserving religious harmony and supporting the local community during challenging times. The ceremony concluded peacefully with devotees expressing solidarity and renewed faith.

High Tension at Gandhi Bhavan: Telangana Mahila Congress Stages Massive

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana Pradesh Mahila Congress (TPMC) staged a massive protest at Gandhi Bhavan in Nampally on Friday, intensifying the political heat in Telangana amid rising confrontations between the Congress and the BJP. The demonstration drew widespread attention as videos and images of the agitation rapidly circulated across social media platforms.

Led by Telangana State Mahila Congress President Sunita Rao Mogli and Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Mahila Congress President Neelam Padma, hundreds of party workers gathered at the Congress headquarters. Cadres from village, district, and state levels participated in large numbers, reflecting strong organizational mobilization. Protestors wore white T-shirts carrying the slogan "The PM is Compromised" and raised loud chants including "Down Down Modi," "Resign Modi," and "Nahi Chalegi, Nahi Chalegi." Demonstrators also displayed placards demanding "Nari Nyay" (justice for women) and raised slogans calling for the resignation of Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri. The protest escalated when participants



Telangana Pradesh Mahila Congress activists, led by TPCC Mahila President Mogli Sunita Rao, staged a protest and burnt an effigy at Gandhi Bhavan in Hyderabad demanding the immediate resignation of Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri.

burned effigies and photographs of Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the entrance of Gandhi Bhavan, symbolizing their demand for accountability. Heavy police deployment was arranged in and around Nampally to prevent any law-and-order issues. Minor scuffles reportedly occurred when protestors attempted to burn the effigy near the main gate, with police intervening to control the situation. Despite tense moments captured in viral videos, authorities managed to prevent further escalation.

The agitation was organized as a counter-protest following heightened political tensions over the past week. Mahila Congress

leaders said the demonstration was in response to the BJP Mahila Morcha's attempt to lay siege to Gandhi Bhavan on February 23, which itself followed a controversial Youth Congress protest in New Delhi. Congress leaders described their action as a defense of democratic values and women's dignity.

The protest comes during the ongoing Telangana Budget Session, a period marked by sharp exchanges between the ruling Congress government and the opposition BJP. Political observers view the demonstration as another sign of escalating rivalry and an increasingly confrontational political atmosphere in the state.

Singareni employee killed, wife injured in road accident



A Singareni employee was killed and his wife sustained serious injuries in a tragic road accident on Rajiv Rahadari in Siddipet district on Sunday. The incident occurred near Kondapak following a traffic diversion put in place due to ongoing road repair works. According to Kukurpally police, the deceased was identified as Abdul Rafi (45), a resident of Bellampalli. He was travelling from Hyderabad to Bellampalli along with his wife, Mazher Begum, when the accident took place. Police said that traffic had been diverted to one side of the road near the repair site. However, reportedly unaware of the diversion, Rafi continued driving at the same speed and suddenly encountered an oncoming DCM vehicle. Unable to control the vehicle in time, his car rammmed into the DCM head-on. The impact of the collision was severe, leading to Rafi's death on the spot. His wife sustained serious injuries and was immediately shifted to a nearby hospital for treatment. Her condition is said to be critical. Police registered a case.

Hair Art Salon Inaugurated at Netaji Nagar

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

BC Welfare Associations United Forum Telangana State President Beri Ramchander Yadav attended the inauguration of Hair Art Professional Salon, established by Kiran Brothers in Netaji Nagar Colony, as the chief guest. He inaugurated the salon and congratulated the owners, wishing them steady growth and financial success.

Addressing the gathering, he said youth opting for self-employment through their own ideas is inspiring and should be encouraged. He advised young people to avoid negative paths and focus on businesses that contribute positively to society. He also urged youth not to feel hesitant about pursu-



ing traditional occupations and entrepreneurial ventures.

He emphasized that hard-earned income brings true satisfaction, while dishonest earnings lead to instability. Encouraging youth to set clear goals and work with determination, he appreciated the self-driven initiative of Kiran Brothers. Colony elders, youth leaders, and local residents attended the event.

Hyderabad Bids Emotional Farewell to DSDO Sudhakar Rao

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The sporting fraternity of the city accorded a warm and emotional farewell to Hyderabad District Sports Development Officer (DSDO) Sudhakar Rao at a retirement ceremony held at Balamrai Classic Garden on Saturday, celebrating his long-standing contribution to nurturing athletes and strengthening sports administration in the district. Former Cantonment Board Vice President Jampana Pratap, the chief guest, honoured Sudhakar Rao with a ceremonial shawl and described his retirement as a



"great loss" to Hyderabad's sporting ecosystem. He praised Rao for going beyond administrative duties and serving as a mentor who connected government resources with grassroots talent. Speakers at the event highlighted Rao's efficient leadership in organizing district and state-level competitions

and his ability to coordinate effectively with government departments, employees' associations, schools, and colleges to promote sports participation. Coaches and athletes recalled his athlete-centric approach, noting that his open-door policy encouraged many young players, especially from modest backgrounds, to pursue

Youngster killed on the spot as car mows down bike in Mancheril

A 23-year-old man was killed on the spot when a car hit his two-wheeler on which he was travelling on a high-level bridge across the Godavari river at Gudem village in Dandepalli mandal after midnight on Friday.

Police said Akula Akshay from Gudem received grievous injuries when the car hit his two-wheeler on the bridge around 12.30 am. Death was instant. He was returning to Gudem from Jagtial district at the time of the incident. Based on a complaint received from his father, a case was registered against the driver of the car. Investigation is on.

competitive sports. The ceremony witnessed the participation of prominent sports personalities, coaches, and players who credited Rao with revitalizing the district's sports culture.

The event concluded with a standing ovation, reflecting widespread appreciation for his service. While stepping down from his official role, attendees expressed confidence that Sudhakar Rao's legacy of efficiency, encouragement, and structured sports development will continue guiding Hyderabad's sporting future.

Delhi Liquor Scam: Six From Telugu States Acquitted

The special CBI court in Delhi on Friday has given a clean chit to the six persons from the Telugu states — K. Kavitha, Abhishek Boinapalli, Mootha Goutham, Butchibabu Gountla and Sarath Chandra Reddy — in Delhi liquor scam case. They were accused as being part of the so-called 'South Group' in the case. The prosecution had alleged that the 'South Group', headed by K. Kavitha, listed as Accused No. 17, comprised Sarath Reddy (A23), Abhishek Boinapalli (A4), Arun Ramchandra Pillai (A5), Mootha Gautam (A6) and Butchibabu (A11). It was alleged that this group was favoured by grant of L-1 licence to Indospirits, in which Sameer Mahendru (A7) was a stakeholder. Arvind Kumar Singh (A15) was alleged to be closely linked to the South Group. Amandeep Singh Dhali (A9) was projected as another beneficiary who agreed to facilitate recoupment of upfront payments to be utilised in the Goa elections for favours extended under the policy which was later withdrawn by the then AAP government in Delhi. All 23 persons in the case were cleared.

KTR Alleges Hyderabad Neglect Under Congress Rule

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) working president K. T. Rama Rao on Saturday launched a sharp attack on the Congress government, alleging that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy had damaged Hyderabad's growth and governance over the past two years by prioritising personal and real estate interests over public welfare.

Addressing a meeting of BRS legislators and senior leaders from the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) limits, Rama Rao claimed the state government had ignored citizens' hardships while focusing on land-related activities. The meeting reviewed the party's future strategy, issues to be raised in the upcoming Budget session, and preparations for civic elections. Rama Rao alleged that



the Chief Minister targeted valuable lands in Hyderabad to generate illegal earnings and accused him of tarnishing the city's image nationally and internationally. According to him, Hyderabad was being neglected because the Congress failed to secure political support from the city during elections.

He further alleged that initiatives such as HY-DRAA, the industrial land controversy, Transferable Development Rights (TDR)-related issues, and the Fourth City land proposals reflected an excessive

focus on real estate rather than governance. The BRS leader claimed that the Chief Minister had spent the last 24 months concentrating on projects that benefited associates and family members.

Highlighting civic concerns, Rama Rao said problems like mosquito infestation, sanitation lapses, and power cuts had resurfaced despite being effectively managed during the previous BRS administration. He stated that residents were facing increasing difficulties due to the government's failure to address basic urban services.

Criticising the promotion of the Future City project, he alleged that the initiative was being showcased at national and global platforms primarily to increase land values, while existing infrastructure and civic amenities in Hyderabad were being ignored. The city, he said, had experienced setbacks across sectors due to delays in infrastructure development and lack of administrative focus.

Rama Rao contrasted the current situation with the tenure of former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, under whom Hyderabad witnessed improvements in drinking water supply, sanitation, public transport, and uninterrupted power supply.

He added that voters had rewarded the BRS by electing the party's mayor twice in GHMC. During the meeting, organisational responsibilities for upcoming GHMC elections were also assigned. Dasuju Sravan and Karne Prabhakar were entrusted with coordination in GHMC areas, while Shambipur Raju and Pochampally Srinivas Reddy were given responsibilities for the proposed Malkajgiri and Cyberabad municipal corporations respectively.

One Day National Leadership Summit Held Successfully at CBIT

National experts deliberate on governance, accountability, and leadership reforms to strengthen higher education institutions nationwide.

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Chaitanya Bharathi Institute of Technology (CBIT), Hyderabad, successfully organized a One Day National Leadership Summit on the theme "Academic and Administrative Leadership in Higher Educational Institutions: Pathways to Good Governance, Accountability, Responsibility and Role Clarity" at its Assembly Hall on Friday, bringing together leading academicians, administrators, policymakers, and education experts from across India.

The summit was graced by Shri Prasanta Mahapatra, IAS (Retd.), Former Special Chief Secretary, Government of Andhra Pradesh, as Chief Guest. In his keynote address, he stressed the need for transparent governance, accountability, and visionary leadership to strengthen higher education institutions and meet emerging national and global challenges. Eminent resource persons delivered expert sessions on key leadership and governance themes.



Dr. K. Karunakaran, Former Vice-Chancellor, Mohan Babu University, Tirupati, highlighted student learning outcomes and the role of academic leaders. Prof. C.S.R.K. Prasad, Vice-Chancellor, JNTUK, Kakinada, discussed quality assurance, accreditations, and institutional rankings. Prof. S. Venkataramanaiah of IIM Lucknow spoke on transformational leadership in the digital era, while Prof. M. L. Sai Kumar, Former Dean, Institute of Public Enterprises, Hyderabad, elaborated on accountability in academic leadership. Maj. Gen. Dr. S.S. Dasaka (Retd.), Former Vice-Chancellor, Indus University, Ahmedabad, addressed leadership strategies through Win-3 management practices.

CBIT Principal Prof. C. V. Narasimulu outlined the institute's progress in academics, research, infrastructure, and accreditation excellence. Dr. N. L. N. Reddy emphasized that the summit would help enhance governance clarity and administrative efficiency. Faculty and participants from institutions across Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Bihar actively engaged in interactive discussions. The summit concluded with a vote of thanks, reaffirming CBIT's commitment to academic excellence and responsible leadership in higher education.

Rare Eye Diseases Need Early Diagnosis: Experts

World Rare Disease Day 2026 Focuses on Rare Eye Disorders

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Experts and healthcare leaders called for urgent attention to rare ophthalmic disorders, improved diagnostic systems, and strengthened genetic services during the observance of World Rare Disease Day 2026 in Hyderabad. The event was organised by the Indian Organisation for Rare Diseases (IORD) in collaboration with L V Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI) and Rainbow Children's Hospital, featuring a scientific conference titled "Raise the Awareness - Rare Diseases," with a special focus on rare eye conditions.



Dr. Dinesh Kumar Chirra (3rd from right), Director Intensive Care Services - Rainbow Children's Hospital, inaugurating the WORLD RARE DISEASE DAY - 2026 conference hosted by Indian Organisation for Rare Diseases (IORD), today at Rainbow Children's Hospital, Banjara Hills. (L-R) Mr. Muralidhar Indrakanti, Film-maker; Dr. K. Prashanth, Group Medical Director - Rainbow Children's Hospital; Dr. Srinivas Namdeo, Director - IORD; Dr. Gayatri K. Vice-President, IORD; Dr. Ramiah Mullavala, President & CEO, IORD; Dr. Anil Kumar Mendel, Senior Glaucoma Clinician and Scientist, Centre for Sight; and Dr. Krishna J. Rao Mulvya, Secretary, IORD; look on.

and CEO Ramaiah Muthyala described rare diseases as a major yet under-recognized public health challenge. He noted that India's large population contributes to a higher number of rare disease patients and emphasized the need for focused, disease-specific awareness initiatives rather than generalized discussions. He stressed that each rare disease requires tailored approaches to diagnosis, treatment, and patient support.

Experts pointed out that although individual rare eye disorders affect small groups, collectively they impose a significant burden on families and healthcare systems. Dr. Muralidhar Ramappa, Head of the Center for Rare Eye Diseases and Ocular Genetics at

LVPEI, highlighted the importance of early detection, multidisciplinary care, and strong referral networks. He noted that delayed diagnosis often results in lost opportunities for timely intervention and counselling.

Experts also explained that rare eye diseases may arise not only from genetic causes but also from metabolic, developmental, inflammatory, infectious, traumatic, or systemic conditions. The conference brought together specialists including Dinesh Kumar Chirra, Gayatri K, and Anil Kumar Mandal, along with researchers and rare disease survivors, reinforcing the need for collaborative research, policy support, and increased awareness across India.

sumers, stating that the respect earned from people and colleagues defines a true public servant. He highlighted Rao's commitment to resolving public grievances and supporting staff as a model of effective leadership. Employees shared their experiences working

Panduranga Reddy Welcomes Clean Chit in Liquor Case

Kavitha Targeted Politically; Court Verdict Restores Truth, Says Panduranga Reddy, Telangana Jagruthi Rangareddy District President

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

A court ruling declaring the alleged liquor scam as a politically motivated case has dramatically altered the political narrative, marking a turning point and paving the way for a decisive new phase in political engagement, said Kappati Panduranga Reddy, President of Telangana Jagruthi, Rangareddy District. With the judiciary granting a clean chit to those accused, he stated that the long-standing allegations used to politically target leaders have now collapsed, replacing negativity with renewed confidence and positive

momentum. According to Kappati Panduranga Reddy, the so-called "liquor case" had for years been used as a political weapon by opponents to defame and ridicule their rivals in public discourse. Regardless of the issue under discussion, critics repeatedly invoked these allegations to tarnish reputations and weaken political credibility. He maintained that despite their integrity, attempts were consistently made to politically corner them using unproven accusations.

Highlighting the significance of the judgment, Kappati Panduranga Reddy said the court clearly ob-



served that the liquor case was not a genuine scam but a politically driven conspiracy rooted in vendetta politics. The judiciary concluded that the accusations lacked substance and granted a complete clean chit to the accused, publicly affirming their innocence and integrity. Supporters, he added, view the verdict as a victory of truth and justice

and the beginning of a new political chapter. He further pointed out that corruption and scam cases in India typically take decades to reach conclusions. Historical examples reflect this pattern: a film actress murder case required nearly 24 years for a verdict; the fodder scam took 17 years for its first judgment; cases involving Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy have continued for over 13 years; the "cash-for-vote" case has been ongoing for 11 years; the Harshad Mehta stock market scam verdict took 11 years; and the Satyam corporate fraud case concluded after six years, with courts confirming offences

and punishing the guilty. Against this backdrop, Kappati Panduranga Reddy noted that many believed the liquor case would also drag on for decades. Instead, the court's decision arrived unexpectedly early, dismissing the allegations and exposing them as politically motivated. The ruling, he said, reinforces the principle of Satyameva Jayate — truth alone triumphs. With the verdict now delivered, Kappati Panduranga Reddy asserted that the political narrative has shifted entirely, signalling the beginning of a new strategic and decisive political struggle built on restored credibility and public trust.

DE Venu Gopal Rao Honoured at Farewell

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

TG SPDCL Divisional Engineer (DE) Venu Gopal Rao was accorded a warm farewell at the Boinapalli Division as colleagues, staff, and senior officials gathered to mark his retirement after years of dedicated service. Former Cantonment Board Vice-Chairman Jampana Pratap attended as Chief Guest and felicitated him with a traditional shawl and garland in recognition of his contributions to the Electricity Department. Addressing the gathering, Jampana Pratap praised Rao for maintaining strong public relations and remaining accessible to con-



sumers, stating that the respect earned from people and colleagues defines a true public servant. He highlighted Rao's commitment to resolving public grievances and supporting staff as a model of effective leadership. Employees shared their experiences working

under his guidance, appreciating his customer-centric approach and efforts to maintain team morale. Officials described his retirement as the conclusion of a significant chapter for the Boinapalli Division and an inspiration for future officers.

Police rescue kidnapped woman after two-hour chase, three arrested in Sangareddy

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

In a dramatic chase, Vattapally police pursued a gang that allegedly kidnapped a woman and rescued her near Pulkal after two hours of efforts.

According to Vattapally Sub-Inspector Lav Kumar, the gang comprising Srikanth, his elder brother Jagadish, and their friend Lakshman kidnapped Srikanth's maternal cousin, Rupa, a resident of Darakastu Pally, in an attempt to force her into marriage.

Srikanth had reportedly been interested in marrying Rupa since childhood, but her parents had arranged her marriage with another

person from their community.

While Rupa was travelling towards her house on a two-wheeler along with her younger brother, the accused intercepted the vehicle, forcibly pushed her into their car, and fled the scene.

Following a complaint, Vattapally police launched a search operation in coordination with neighbouring police stations. After tracking the vehicle, the police intercepted the accused near Pulkal following a chase and rescued the victim. Speaking after the rescue and arrest, Lav Kumar said the accused had threatened to kill Rupa if she married anyone else.

Artist K.V. Suresh Honors KTR with Divine Paintings

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Renowned Secunderabad mythological artist K.V. Suresh (BFA) met K. T. Rama Rao (KTR) at his Nandinagar residence, presenting two spiritually significant paintings depicting Goddess Rajarajeshwari Devi and Maa Lalitha Devi. The interaction highlighted the promotion of Telangana's traditional art and cultural heritage.



dedicated to the Dasha Mahavidyas, representing the ten tantric manifestations of the Divine Mother. The meeting emphasized the role of art as a bridge between spirituality and cultural preservation. Suresh was accompanied by C. Anand Goud, State

Leader and Goshamahal constituency aspirant, and R. Sai Prasad, senior leader from Secunderabad Cantonment. The paintings, noted for their vibrant colors and detailed mythological accuracy, were warmly received by the BRS leader. Speaking on the occa-

sion, Suresh described art as a spiritual journey aimed at bringing divine forms to life while preserving India's rich mythological traditions. An alumnus of Sri Venkateswara University, the artist has gained recognition for promoting devotional art rooted in classical aesthetics. The meeting reflects continued encouragement for local artists and underscores the importance of sustaining traditional mythological art within contemporary society.

Science Expo Inaugurated at Sri Chaitanya School

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Science Expo at Sri Chaitanya School, Karkhana, was inaugurated with great enthusiasm, inspiring students and encouraging scientific curiosity. The event was formally opened by Traffic Trimulgherry Division ACP G. Shankar Raju, who attended as the chief guest and addressed the gathering. Speaking on the occasion, ACP G. Shankar Raju advised students to respect their parents and teachers while setting clear goals for their future.



He emphasized the importance of discipline, hard work, self-confidence, and leadership qualities, urging students to draw inspiration from Swami Vivekananda, whose life symbolizes determination and excellence. He also encouraged students to develop strong values alongside academic achievements. The programme witnessed active participation from school leadership, including Principal Mrs. D. Radhika,

Dean Mr. K. Krishnam Raju, Primary In-charge Mrs. Himabindu Singh, Pre-Primary In-charge Mrs. Rajni Sarina, and Coordinator Mr. Akhil.

They appreciated the students' innovative exhibits and efforts in showcasing scientific ideas and creativity. Organized in a vibrant and energetic atmosphere, the Science Expo provided a platform for students to demonstrate their knowledge, innovation, and practical understanding of science. The event successfully motivated young learners to explore scientific thinking and innovation, concluding on a positive and inspiring note for students, teachers, and parents alike.

What Are Iran's Ballistic Missile Capabilities?

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Iran's missile programme has emerged as a major sticking point in international negotiations, with Western nations viewing it as a key security concern while Tehran insists the arsenal is purely defensive. Iran maintains that its missile capabilities are intended to deter threats and protect national sovereignty, denying allegations that they are linked to nuclear weapon ambitions.

Ballistic missiles — rocket-propelled weapons guided during launch before following a free-fall trajectory — form the backbone of Iran's military deterrence strategy. These missiles can carry conventional explosives and potentially biological, chemical or nuclear warheads across varying distances. Western powers argue that such systems could serve as delivery mechanisms for nuclear weapons if Iran were ever to develop them, a claim



Iran consistently rejects. According to U.S. intelligence assessments, Iran possesses the largest ballistic missile stockpile in the Middle East. Iranian officials say the country has voluntarily limited missile ranges to about 2,000 kilometres, a distance they consider sufficient for national defence, including the capability to reach Israel. Many missile installations are reportedly located around Tehran, with at least five underground "missile cities" spread across provinces such as Kermanshah

and Semnan and near the Gulf region. Iran's arsenal includes several long-range systems. The Sejil and Ghadr missiles have ranges of about 2,000 km, while the Emad reaches roughly 1,700 km and the Shahab-3 about 1,300 km. Other systems include the Khorramshahr and Hoveyze missiles, alongside shorter-range platforms such as Shahab-1 and Zolfaghar. Iranian media have also highlighted newer missiles like Kheibar and Haj Qasem, capable of striking distant

regional targets. Iran last used ballistic missiles extensively during a 12-day conflict with Israel in June 2025, firing strikes that caused casualties and infrastructure damage. Analysts later assessed that Israel destroyed a significant portion of Iranian launchers during the fighting, though Tehran says it has since rebuilt its capabilities. Iran has also launched missiles in recent years against targets in Iraq, Syria and Pakistan, and previously struck U.S.-led forces in

Iraq in 2020 following the killing of General Qassem Soleimani.

Strategically, Iran emphasises underground launch facilities, mobile firing systems and domestic production to ensure survivability during conflict. Experts note that Iranian engineers have improved missile range by using lighter composite materials and reverse-engineered foreign designs. In 2023, Iran unveiled what it described as its first domestically produced hypersonic ballistic missile, capable of travelling at speeds exceeding five times the speed of sound and designed to evade interception systems. Analysts say Iran's missile programme draws heavily from North Korean and Russian technology, with additional technical assistance from China. Alongside ballistic systems, Iran also operates cruise missiles such as the Kh-55, capable of travelling up to 3,000 kilometres, further expanding its regional strike capability.

Shiv Sena (UBT) Refuses To Leave RS Seat For Sharad Pawar

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

The Shiv Sena (UBT) appears reluctant to cede a Rajya Sabha seat to Sharad Pawar, signalling potential friction within the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) ahead of the upcoming elections. On Friday, Aaditya Thackeray and Varun Sardesai asserted that while Mr. Pawar is a "tall leader", it is equally important for the Shiv Sena (UBT) to maintain its own voice in national politics. Sources indicated that the younger Thackeray is keen on securing the Rajya Sabha berth for Priyanka Chaturvedi. Based on their current strength in the Maharashtra Assembly, the MVA constituents are positioned to win only one of the seven Rajya Sabha seats from the state. Elections will be held on March 16 for seven Rajya Sabha seats in Maharashtra, which are falling vacant in April. Given the Mahayuti's nu-



merical strength, six of the seven seats are expected to go to the ruling alliance, leaving the MVA with just one. The opposition alliance can secure this lone seat only if all its constituent parties remain united and maintain coordination. The Shiv Sena (UBT) has 20 MLAs, while the Congress and the NCP (SP) have 16 and 10 MLAs, respectively. A candidate requires 36 votes to win a Rajya Sabha seat. Of the seven MPs retiring in April, two belong to Mr. Pawar's party — Mr. Pawar himself and Fauzia Khan. Given the party's current strength in the Assembly, it would be difficult for it to get even a single candidate elected on its own. Mr. Thackeray, however, made it clear that his

party would not relinquish its claim. "We are not discussing any individual here. Sharad Pawar is a stalwart and we respect him immensely. But I am stating the stand of my party and safeguarding its interest. Even as per the MVA's agreed principles, we have the first claim on the Rajya Sabha seat," he said.

The Shiv Sena (UBT) leader recalled that in 2020, the Shiv Sena (then undivided) was to field two candidates but had left a seat for Ms. Khan at the NCP's request. In 2022, the party's second candidate, Sanjay Pawar, lost due to cross-voting. In 2024, Chandrakant Handore was the sole MVA candidate. "As per the current strength, Shiv Sena (UBT) is the largest party in the MVA and therefore has the first claim. If we start giving up seats for big names, tomorrow the Congress may propose the name of another stalwart."

Indian Embassies in Gulf, Iran issue safety advisories amid regional crisis

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

As tensions in the region escalated, the Embassy of India in Doha issued an "important advisory", asking all Indian nationals in Qatar to take due care and follow news and advisories as and when issued by the Embassy and local authorities. "In view of the current regional situation, all Indian nationals in Qatar are advised to take due care, follow news and advi-

sories as and when issued by the Embassy and local authorities. Our Embassy is continuing to function as usual," the advisory read. "Everyone is requested to follow the emergency alert sent by local authorities that in the interest of public safety, everyone is urged to stay away from the vicinity of military sites and stay inside buildings, whether in homes or elsewhere, and not to go out or move except for the utmost neces-

sity to avoid exposure to any risks," it added. The embassy of India in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) also issued an urgent advisory in view of the current regional situation, asking all Indian nationals in the United Arab Emirates to avoid unnecessary travel, take due care, remain vigilant, follow safety guidelines and advisories as and when issued by the UAE authorities and the Embassy. "The Embassy of India,

Abu Dhabi and the Consulate General in Dubai are continuing to function normally and will issue updates as necessary," it said, asking the Indian nationals in UAE to contact toll free and WhatsApp numbers in case of any emergency. Earlier, the Embassy of India in Tehran advised all Indian nationals in Iran to exercise utmost caution, avoid unnecessary movements and remain indoors as far as possible in view of the developing situation.

Pakistan Says It Killed More Than 300 Afghan Forces In Airstrikes

ISLAMABAD
Wakeup telangana

Pakistan's military, backed by artillery and air power, struck more military installations deep inside Afghanistan overnight and into early Saturday, killing over 300 Afghan forces in dayslong border clashes, a government spokesman and officials said. Pakistani and Afghan forces have targeted each other's military positions since Thursday night, when Afghanistan launched a cross-border attack in response to Pakistani airstrikes in Afghanistan last Sunday. Pakistan



said it was targeting the outlawed Pakistani Taliban, known as Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan, or TTP. The group is separate but closely allied with Afghanistan's ruling Taliban. Afghanistan, however, said only civilians were killed in Sunday's airstrike. After the Afghan attack, Pakistan's Defense Minister Khawaja Mohammad Asif declared Friday:

"Our patience has now run out. Now it is open war between us." Continued fighting Pakistan's Information Minister Attaullah Tarar said Saturday that more than 331 Afghan forces had been killed and over 500 others wounded during the ongoing military strikes in Afghanistan. Pakistan destroyed 102 Afghan posts, captured 22 others and destroyed 163 tanks and armored vehicles at 37 locations, he said. There was no immediate comment from Afghanistan on the Pakistani claims. On Friday, Afghan government spokesman

Zabiullah Mujahid said that Pakistan's claims that more than 100 Afghan forces had been killed were false. Pakistan's state-run media reported the country's air force carried out strikes targeting key military installations in various areas of eastern Afghanistan. According to Pakistani authorities, hundreds of residents living near the northwestern Torkham border crossing had fled. In recent days, Pakistan has also transported dozens of Afghan refugees who had been waiting at Torkham to return home to safety.

AAIB Report: Low Visibility, Airfield Lapses Led to Ajit Pawar Crash

CHENNAI
Wakeup telangana

The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) on Saturday released its preliminary report on the Baramati plane crash that killed Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar and four others. The 22-page report said the accident occurred at an uncontrolled airfield operating only under Visual Flight Rules (VFR). At the time of landing, visibility was reported at 3 km—below the minimum 5 km required for VFR operations.



at the uncontrolled airfields to ensure that the flying operations (including Non-scheduled/Private/Charter operations) in the airfield are allowed only when the prevailing meteorological conditions are within the criteria laid down in the relevant DGCA regulations," the report said.

The report noted that the Baramati airfield does not have a certified meteorological facility. Weather information is relayed through temporary towers run by flying training organisations, with visibility assessed using visual markers under VFR. While two wind socks are located on the Runway 29 side, none are present on the Runway 11 side, where the aircraft attempted to land. The Learjet 45XR, operated by VSR Ventures Pvt Ltd, crashed while attempting to land on Runway 11 at around 8.46 am on January 28. The aircraft had departed from Mumbai and was operating a non-scheduled VIP charter flight. AAIB said the aircraft's previous flight — Mumbai-Surat-Mumbai on

January 26 — was uneventful, with the operating crew reporting no abnormalities. A post-flight inspection by a technician also found no issues. Both pilots had prior experience flying to Baramati and other uncontrolled airfields and had operated several VIP flights. They were familiar with the airfield's topography and cleared the breath analyser test. The bureau further suggested audits or enhanced surveillance of stakeholders at uncontrolled airfields and urged the DGCA to improve landing aids and basic meteorological facilities at such airports. Maharashtra Minister and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Aditi Tatkare demanded that all reports and findings related to the crash be compiled and placed on a common public forum for scrutiny. "This is not an accident of a common man. Ajit Dada was a deputy CM six times and has been in public life for many years. An accident involving such a person has to be investigated thoroughly and very carefully," she said.

India Urges.....

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar held urgent phone calls with Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi and Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar, conveying India's worries and reiterating the need for diplomatic solutions to calm the crisis. He also engaged with counterparts from Gulf nations including the UAE and Qatar to monitor the situation and ensure the safety of Indian communities. Indian missions in the region issued advisories urging nationals in Iran, Israel, and Gulf countries to exercise utmost caution, avoid unnecessary movement, remain vigilant, stay indoors where possible, register on the MADAD portal, follow local security guidance, and consider departing via available means amid disruptions. India's neutral stance balances strong strategic ties with Israel and longstanding relations with Iran, while protecting millions of expatriates in the Gulf whose safety and economic contributions remain a priority. No support for military action or regime change was expressed, with focus solely on preventing wider conflict through dialogue.

Modi Links.....

The prime minister further said that defaming the country and weakening the armed forces has been an old habit of the Congress. "The Congress had left our soldiers longing for weapons and uniforms. This is the same Congress that deprived the families of our soldiers of One Rank, One

Pension for years, and during whose tenure major scams took place in defence deals with foreign countries," he said. In the past 11 years, Modi said, India's armed forces have delivered strong blows to terrorists and the enemies of the nation on every front. "Our Army has been victorious in every mission and every battlefield. From surgical strikes to Operation Sindoor, they have proven their bravery. But even in these matters, Congress leaders chose to promote the lies of the enemies," he said. "The Congress opposes everything that is good for the country and benefits the people of India. This is why the nation is teaching the Congress a lesson today," he said. During the Congress' tenure, news of corruption and paper leaks were common in Rajasthan and farmers were deceived, Modi said. The BJP's "double-engine" government in Rajasthan has completed two years and is taking the state on a new path of growth. "Now paper leaks have been curbed and strict action is being taken against the culprits," he said. In Ajmer, the PM inaugurated development projects worth over Rs 16,680 crore and launched a nationwide campaign for human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination for girls aged 14. Modi said the projects will accelerate Rajasthan's growth. He said before 2014, many women faced hardship and humiliation while girls dropped out of school because of lack of toilets and poor women could not afford sanitary pads. "For us, the dignity and health of our sisters and daugh-

FROM FRONT PAGE

ters is a serious matter," he said, adding that the BJP government addressed these problems in mission mode. Modi said the government is also focusing on modern connectivity in Rajasthan and the expansion of infrastructure is increasing investment opportunities. Referring to the development taking place around the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor, he said efforts are being made to turn Rajasthan into a land of opportunities. Rajasthan Governor Haribhau Bagade, Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma, senior BJP leader Vasudhara Raje, among others, attended the programme.

Firecracker Facto...

Home minister V. Anitha, tourism minister Kandula Durgesh, Rajya Sabha member Sana Satish, Kakinada MP T. Uday Srinivas, Jana Sena district president Tummla Rama Swamy, Telugu Desam district president Jyothula Naveen Kumar visited the spot. The deceased include Gandla Manga, 43, Valluri Ravi, 35, Bikkina Karuna Subba Rao, 45, Sadhanala Satyaveni, 44, Godatha Nan, 26, Thumpala Lova, 38, Chintala Ramana, 60, Nukella Devi, 45, Sakumalla Raghava, 50, Adabala Srinivasa Rao, 55, all from Vetlapalem, Mandapalli Chinni, 44, Godatha Mahesh, 41, Godatha Veera Venkata Ramana, 48, Kadimpalli Dhana Raju, 55, of Gudaparthi, Darsipati Nani, 38, Yedida Sampath Kumar, 25, of Samalkot, Makara Raghavamma, 55, of Pedabrahmadevam, and Kadimpalli Krupamma, Gampala Manga, Gampala Nagaraju,

whose details could not be ascertained. The injured include Mortha Srinu, 30, of Peddapuram, Sappa Satyaveni, Chitikela Lakshmi, 45, of Vetlapalem, Karethi Srinu, 33, Darsiparthi Raju, 35, Vemagiri Lova Raju, 35, Vemagiri Davidu, 41, Pal lapati Veera Srinivas, 48, and Darsiparthi Lovaraju, 35, of Samalkot

PM Urges India.....

"A Pakistani fighter jet was shot down in the sixth district of Jalalabad city, and its pilot was captured alive," police spokesman Tayeb Hammad said. Wahidullah Mohammadi, spokesman for the military in eastern Afghanistan, said the Pakistani jet was downed by Afghan forces "and the pilot was captured alive". Pakistan's foreign ministry said the claims were "totally untrue". Afghanistan's defence ministry has also said it carried out air strikes on Pakistani territory over the past two days, which observers said could have been drones. Pakistan launched air strikes on Friday on the Afghan capital Kabul and southern Kandahar, where Afghan Taliban Supreme Leader Hibatullah Akhundzada is based. That came after Afghan forces began a border offensive late on Thursday, which the Taliban government said was in response to earlier Pakistani strikes. The South Asian neighbours have clashed at the border intermittently for months. Pakistan's information minister said on Saturday that 37 locations across Afghanistan had been subject to aerial targeting since its operation began.

CRIME

Telangana HC Seeks Govt Response on 'Irregularities' in Samagra Shiksha School Bids

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana High Court on Tuesday issued notices to the state government and the School Education Department in a public interest litigation (PIL) alleging large-scale irregularities and fraudulent allotments under the PM Shri and Samagra Shiksha schemes for vocational education. A division bench comprising Chief Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh and Justice G.M. Mohiuddin directed the Chief Secretary, the Principal Secretary of School Education, and the State Project Director of Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan to file their counter-affidavits within three weeks.

The court was hearing a PIL that originated from

a letter addressed to the Chief Justice by advocate Rapolu Bhaskar, which was converted into a formal petition.

Advocate Bhaskar alleged that there was extensive fraud in the implementation of the Samagra Shiksha scheme for the academic year 2024-25. He contended that the central government had sanctioned substantial funds to establish PM Shri and Samagra Shiksha schools aimed at providing vocational education, particularly for poor and underprivileged students. According to the PIL, the Telangana government invited bids to set up 946 vocational schools. However, only 500 bids were approved, and the bidding process was allegedly halted for the 2024-25 academic year.

Bhaskar further claimed that certain officials within the School Education Department accepted large sums of money from select bidders, enabling preferential allotments. This, he argued, caused financial losses to other legitimate bidders and adversely affected the students who were meant to benefit from the vocational education programs. The PIL emphasizes that these irregularities undermine the objective of the schemes, which is to provide skill-based education to disadvantaged students and improve employability.

It seeks a detailed investigation into the bidding and allotment process, along with accountability for officials involved in facilitating alleged irregularities. The High

Court's notice signals a proactive approach toward ensuring transparency and fairness in the implementation of central government educational schemes in the state. By directing key state officials to respond, the court aims to scrutinize the allegations and assess whether procedural lapses or corruption have compromised the intended benefits of vocational education programs under PM Shri and Samagra Shiksha initiatives. The court is expected to review the counter-affidavits and may issue further directions to ensure that the schemes are implemented in accordance with their objectives and funds are utilized properly for the benefit of students.

HC admits HUL writ, grants interim stay

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana High Court stayed further proceedings initiated by the labour Appellate Authority against Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) under the Telangana Shops and Establishments Act. Justice Renuka Yara was dealing with a writ petition filed by the company. According to the petitioner, the appellate authority proceeded to pass the impugned order in disregard of the statutory framework governing the appellate remedy and without appreciating the legal consequences arising from non-compliance with earlier directions within the mandatory period of 30

days. Such non-compliance, according to the petitioner, rendered the second appeal infructuous. The company sought issuance of a writ of certiorari to quash the impugned order and a consequential direction to hear and dispose of the main appeal on merits. A caveat entered appearance on behalf of the contesting respondent, contending that substantial dues amounting to about ₹60 lakh were pending against the petitioner. HUL contended that nearly ₹41 lakh had been paid and placed material on record evidencing such payments for the perusal of the court.

PBEL Case: Court Orders Compensation For Boy's Parents

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Hyderabad District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission directed Golden Star Facilities to pay ₹10 lakh as compensation to a bereaved family following the death of a six-year-old boy who was electrocuted at a gated community in Narsingi. The incident occurred in February 2019 at PBEL City, where the child, Monish, was playing in the lawn of the residential complex at around 6 pm. He touched a lamp post to retrieve a ball and collapsed. Inquiry revealed that he had come into contact with a live underground electrical wire and

died on the spot. The incident was captured on a CCTV camera.

Monish was the son of Diwakar, a software professional from Chennai, and was studying at a private school in Bandlaguda. The Narsingi police had then booked Incor, Golden Star, and the residents' welfare association.

Then-inspector G.V. Ramana Goud had told Deccan Chronicle in 2019 that the boy's body had been taken to Chennai, his family's native place, and that the case, though registered in Telangana, had involved coordination with Chennai police for the postmortem and inquest. No arrests were made at the time, he said.

Hyderabad man held for using fake number plate

The Langar House Police Station has registered a criminal case and apprehended the accused, Arif Khan, for allegedly using a forged registration plate on his vehicle. According to officials, the legitimate owner of a Honda Activa bearing registration number TS13EX3358 approached the traffic police after receiving illegal traffic challans against his vehicle. During the investigation, authorities found that the accused had replaced his vehicle's original registration number with TS13EX3358 to mislead authorities.

4 Workers Injured In Blast At Jangaon Dairy Unit

WARANGAL
Wakeup telangana

Four workers sustained severe injuries in an explosion at Shakti Dairy's almond milk processing unit in Jangaon district on Wednesday. Police said the blast occurred when an industrial oven used for heating milk bottles exploded under pressure inside the facility. According to preliminary investigation, workers attempted to open the oven before it had cooled down. The sudden release of internal pressure led to the explosion. The impact shattered glass almond milk bottles

in the vicinity, and the resulting shards caused multiple injuries to the workers. The injured were shifted to a nearby hospital, and three of them were later referred to the District Government Hospital as their condition was stated to be critical. Following the incident, family members and local residents alleged lapses in safety protocols at the unit. Jangaon police registered a case and initiated a forensic examination to ascertain whether the explosion was caused by mechanical failure or operational negligence.

Man booked for illegal teak timber storage in Chintapalli

A man was booked for allegedly procuring and storing teak timber illegally in his house at Chintapalli village in Jannaram mandal on Friday. Timber worth over Rs.24,000 was seized from his possession. Jannaram Forest Range Officer Sushma Rao, in a statement, said a case was registered against Muthyram Venkanna from the village for procuring and storing the teak timber at his house. Venkanna was found to have stored the timber logs during a surprise raid conducted by the Forest officials, following a tip-off. The timber was shifted to the office of Jannaram FRO for further inquiry and legal action.

HC Imposes Rs 1 Lakh Cost on HYDRAA for Fencing Land Despite Court Order

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana High Court has imposed costs of Rs 1 lakh on HYDRAA for fencing private land despite a binding civil court decree declaring ownership in favour of the petitioners, and directed immediate removal of the fencing. Justice N.V. Shrivani Kumar held that if the fencing is not removed forthwith, HY-

DRAA shall pay an additional Rs 1 lakh per day to the landowners until compliance. The matter has been posted to March 18, 2026, for reporting compliance and filing of counters.

The court observed that any fencing or installation of boards on lands involved in pending litigation must be undertaken only pursuant to directions issued by a jurisdictional court or the High

Court. It criticised what it termed HYDRAA's "high-handed" practice of fencing properties and erecting boards without court authorisation in civil disputes. The order came on a petition filed by Jonnalagadda Padmini and another, challenging HYDRAA's action in fencing Plot Nos. 184 and 185, each measuring 500 square yards in Survey No. 100 at Babanagar Co-operative Housing Society

Limited, Mallapur Village, Uppal Mandal, Rangareddy district. The petitioners contended that they were dispossessed despite a decree passed by the Additional District Judge, Medchal-Malkajgiri district at Kushaiguda, declaring them absolute owners and granting permanent injunction restraining GHMC and its officials from interfering with their possession.

EDITORIAL

SHOULD INDIA JOIN THE GAZA BOARD OF PEACE?

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Of the two developments linked to Gaza, the first was the inaugural meeting of the proposed 'Board of Peace for Gaza', held on February 19. The second is Prime Minister Narendra Modi's scheduled visit to Israel on February 25. These events, taken together, make this an appropriate moment to reflect on whether India should associate itself with the newly proposed Gaza peace architecture. A brief backdrop is essential. The Gaza Strip is a narrow enclave roughly 41 kilometres long and 10 kilometres wide. On its eastern flank lies a heavily fortified perimeter separating it from Israel. On October 7, 2023, Hamas militants breached this barrier, killing approximately 1,200 Israelis and taking around 250 hostages. What followed was a prolonged and devastating conflict. After nearly 15 months of war, a ceasefire was declared on January 19, 2025. However, it lasted barely two months, collapsing on March 18, 2025. During that brief window, only three Israeli hostages and 90 Palestinian prisoners were exchanged — a modest outcome relative to the scale of the conflict.

Ceasefire Framework

It was only on October 9, 2025, that the United States brokered a broader ceasefire framework, inviting 60 world leaders to endorse a 'Board of Peace for Gaza'. At a subsequent global economic summit, 26 countries signed the Gaza Peace Accord, pledging \$5 billion in financial assistance and committing troops to an international stabilisation force. India has so far not taken a position.

The Gaza peace plan is structured in two phases. Phase One focuses on stabilisation and security; Phase Two envisages an economic and political settlement. Yet, of the 20 provisions in the plan, only three have been partially implemented: a fragile ceasefire frequently violated, limited exchanges of Israeli hostages and Palestinian prisoners, and the opening of the Rafah crossing solely for medical evacuations. The deeper issues remain unresolved. The trust deficit between Israel and Hamas continues to impede progress. Israel insists that Hamas must surrender its weapons — a demand Hamas categorically rejects. Hamas, for its part, demands a role in governing Gaza, something Israel refuses to accept. Without movement on these core issues, the peace process risks remaining procedural rather than substantive. India's Options India must therefore carefully weigh its options before joining the Board of Peace. Signing the accord may offer the symbolic advantage of a "seat at the high table" in shaping post-conflict Gaza. But symbolism cannot substitute for strategic prudence. One of the most significant concerns is structural. The Board of Peace is chaired by Donald Trump in his personal capacity, rather than by the incumbent US President ex officio. This raises serious questions about institutional continuity. What happens when a new US administration assumes office in January 2029? Would the Board's decisions bind a future American government? Would India be aligning itself with an initiative whose longevity depends on the political

fortunes of an individual? India can aid humanitarian relief and reconstruction without formally joining a Board whose structure, mandate, and longevity are uncertain. India has consistently demonstrated strategic autonomy in recent years — whether in navigating the Russia-Ukraine conflict, balancing relations during tensions between Israel and Iran, or managing trade frictions with the United States. Associating with a body that could potentially take politically charged decisions may constrain India's diplomatic flexibility. There is also the broader concern that such extra-UN mechanisms could, over time, dilute or supplant the authority of established multilateral institutions, such as the United Nations. The implications of that shift could extend beyond Gaza to other international disputes, including those directly affecting India. Another dimension relates to the nature of the initiative itself. President Trump has frequently framed the Palestinian question through an economic lens — prioritising reconstruction funding, investment packages, and development corridors. While economic revival is vital, the conflict is fundamentally political, rooted in competing national aspirations and questions of sovereignty. If India becomes a member of this Board, it may find itself navigating delicate diplomatic terrain. India's ties with Israel are deep and multifaceted, encompassing defence cooperation, counter-terrorism, cybersecurity, and high-technology transfers. India imports significant defence equipment from Israel, including night-vision devices and unmanned aerial vehicles.



Scindia: Vodafone Idea Prospects Positive, No New AGR Relief Beyond Court Order

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

Union Telecom Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on February 27 said the government remains optimistic about the future of crisis-hit telecom operator Vodafone Idea, while making it clear that no additional executive relief on adjusted gross revenue (AGR) dues will be extended beyond the framework set by the Supreme Court of India.

Speaking at the News18 Rising Bharat Summit, Scindia stated that the Centre now holds a 49 percent stake in Vodafone Idea following the conversion of AGR dues into equity, a move undertaken in compliance with court directives.



Despite becoming a significant shareholder, he clarified that the government does not participate in the company's management decisions.

"We are equity holders in Vodafone, but not involved in management. It is for the company's leadership to chart its growth trajectory," Scindia said, adding that current developments indicate a positive outlook for the

telecom operator.

The minister reiterated that all government actions regarding AGR liabilities are strictly aligned with judicial rulings. Responding to questions about potential relief sought by Bharti Airtel, he ruled out any fresh intervention outside the Supreme Court's mandate. Airtel had earlier written to the Department of Telecommunications seeking clarity

and parity in the treatment of AGR dues.

"We are operating under a verdict of the Supreme Court. Whatever action has been taken is based entirely on that judgment," Scindia emphasized. His remarks came weeks after the Union Cabinet approved a major restructuring plan for Vodafone Idea's liabilities, freezing its AGR dues at ₹87,695 crore as of December 31, 2025. The government also cleared a staggered repayment schedule extending from FY2032 to FY2041, offering long-term financial breathing space to the telecom firm.

Additionally, the Department of Telecommunications has initiated a reassessment

of Vodafone Idea's AGR liabilities for the period between FY2007 and FY2019, following Supreme Court rulings in October and November permitting recalculation of certain dues. Highlighting future connectivity goals, Scindia said satellite communication services are essential to ensuring universal digital access across India. The government has issued licences and normative spectrum assignments to satellite internet providers including Starlink, Reliance Jio, and OneWeb. He stressed that expanding satellite connectivity is crucial to delivering a complete bouquet of telecom services and bridging connectivity gaps nationwide.

Alembic Pharma secures USFDA nod for generic drug

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Alembic Pharmaceuticals has received final approval from the United States Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) to market a generic version of a medication used for treating seizures, the company announced on Thursday. The approval covers Lamotrigine orally disintegrating tablets in multiple strengths under the company's Abbreviated New Drug Application (ANDA). The medication is therapeutically equivalent to the reference listed drug Lamictal orally disintegrating tablets developed by GlaxoSmithKline. Lamotrigine is widely prescribed as an anti-epileptic medicine and is used as adjunctive therapy for patients aged



two years and above suffering from partial-onset seizures, primary generalized tonic-clonic seizures, and generalized seizures associated with Lennox-Gastaut syndrome. The drug is also approved for conversion to monotherapy in adults aged 16 years and older who are currently receiving treatment with certain antiepileptic medicines such as carbamazepine, phenytoin, phenobarbital, primidone, or valproate.

According to industry data from IQVIA, the Lamotrigine orally disintegrating tablets market, available in strengths of 25 mg, 50 mg, 100 mg, and 200 mg, recorded an esti-

ated market size of USD 27 million for the twelve months ending December 2025.

The approval strengthens Alembic Pharmaceuticals' presence in the United States generics market, which remains a key growth driver for Indian pharmaceutical companies. The orally disintegrating formulation is designed to dissolve quickly in the mouth, offering improved convenience for patients who may have difficulty swallowing conventional tablets. With this latest approval, the company continues to expand its portfolio of complex generics, reinforcing its strategy to enhance accessibility to affordable treatments while increasing its footprint in regulated international markets.

Billionaires Network Conclave 2026 Brings Industry Leaders Together in Hyderabad



HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Billionaires Network Conclave 2026 was successfully held at ITC Kohinoor, bringing together leading entrepreneurs, investors, corporate executives, and growth strategists from across India for a high-impact business gathering focused on collaboration and visionary leadership.

Hosted by Deepika Maheshwari, Founder of Billionaires Network, the conclave aimed to create

a platform that goes beyond traditional networking by encouraging strategic partnerships, scalable business ideas, and long-term ecosystem building. The event centered on the theme of the "Billionaire Mindset," emphasizing vision, innovation, and impact-driven leadership rather than financial success alone.

The conclave was graced by prominent industry leaders including Rakesh Swami, Group President and Head of Corporate Affairs at

Godrej Industries Group, international strategist Tasneem Shariff, and youth entrepreneur Sumit Tiwari. Panel discussions featured experts such as Vimal Parwal, Ravi Varma, and Sumesh Balakrishnan.

Through keynote sessions, panel discussions, and curated networking interactions, participants explored topics including innovation, exports, sustainable growth, and business scalability. The event attracted industrialists, startup founders, investors, pol-

icy influencers, women entrepreneurs, and young business leaders shaping India's evolving economic landscape.

Organizers highlighted that the conclave was designed to promote collaboration over competition while enabling investment conversations, cross-industry partnerships, and national expansion opportunities. Delegates

from multiple cities participated, strengthening connections across diverse sectors.

Billionaires Network, a rapidly growing pan-India business community founded by Deepika Maheshwari, focuses on empowering entrepreneurs through leadership development, strategic visibility, and high-value collaborations.

The conclave reinforced its mission of building a legacy-driven entrepreneurial ecosystem that supports innovation, inclusive growth, and long-term business impact across the country.

Upasana Inaugurates 1000th Apollo Pharmacy in Telangana

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Upasana Kamineni Konidela, Vice Chairperson - CSR at Apollo Hospitals, inaugurated the 1000th Apollo Pharmacy store in Telangana, marking a major milestone in expanding accessible healthcare services across the state. With this achievement, Apollo Pharmacy has established its presence in all 33 districts of Telangana, reinforcing its position as India's largest and most trusted pharmacy network. The retail ecosystem currently em-



loys over 10,000 people across its pharmacy outlets, digital platforms, and supply chain operations, contributing significantly to healthcare accessibility and employment generation.

The pharmacy network provides access to more than 50,000 genuine medicines and wellness products, ensuring round-the-clock availability along with quick delivery services across urban

and semi-urban regions. Apollo Pharmacy presently handles over 1.65 lakh medicine orders daily, reflecting growing reliance on organised healthcare retail services.

Speaking at the inauguration, Upasana Kamineni Konidela said the milestone represents not only improved healthcare access but also the creation of sustainable employment opportunities, particularly for women. She emphasised Apollo's commitment to building inclusive workplaces that promote leadership opportunities, financial inde-

pendence, and long-term career growth.

Through its omni-channel digital platform, Apollo 24/7, the organisation offers integrated healthcare solutions including teleconsultations with doctors, diagnostic services, and customised insurance options, enabling patients to access comprehensive care from home. Apollo Pharmacy plans to expand further by opening more than 200 additional stores across Telangana over the next three years, strengthening healthcare reach statewide.

Fintech company Block lays off 4,000 of its 10,000 staff, citing gains from AI

BANGKOK
Wakeup telangana

Shares in the financial technology company Block soared more than 20% in premarket trading Friday after its CEO announced it was laying off more than 4,000 of its 10,000 plus employees, reconfiguring to capitalize on its use of artificial intelligence.

"The core thesis is simple. Intelligence tools have changed what it means to build and run a company," Jack Dorsey said in a letter to shareholders in Block, the parent company to online payment platforms such as Square and Cash App. "A significantly smaller team, using the tools we're building, can do more and do it better," he said.

Dorsey's comments explicitly naming AI as a key driver behind the move were also posted on X, or Twitter, a company he co-founded. The assertion that the job cuts will add to Block's profitability and efficiency led in-



vestors to jump in and buy, analysts said. Block's shares gained 5% Thursday to \$54.53, before it reported its earnings. They shot up to nearly \$69 in after-hours trading. The mobile payments services provider reported its fourth quarter gross profit jumped 24% from a year earlier.

"For years, we have debated whether AI would dent jobs at the margin. Now we have a public case study in which the CEO explicitly says that intelligence tools have changed what it means to build and run a company," Stephen Innes of SPI Asset Management said in a commentary.

"Other large employers have announced tens of thousands of cuts in recent months. Some have downplayed the AI link.

Block did not," he said. A global technology company founded in 2009, San Francisco-based Block operates in the United States, Canada, parts of Europe, Australia and Japan.

In a post on Twitter, Dorsey outlined various ways the company will support those laid off. For employees overseas, the terms might differ, he said.

It was unclear which employees would be laid off where. Layoffs by American companies remain at relatively healthy levels, but the job cuts at Block are the latest among thousands announced in recent months. A number of other high-profile companies have announced layoffs recently, including UPS, Amazon, Dow and the Washington Post.

KISNA Conducts Mega CSR Drive Across South India

KARIMNAGAR
Wakeup telangana

KISNA Diamond & Gold Jewellery, the flagship brand of the Hari Krishna Group, successfully organised a Mega CSR Drive across South India, carrying out multiple social initiatives simultaneously at 19 exclusive brand outlets in a single day. The large-scale programme brought together company leadership, franchise partners, community representatives, and NCC cadets, highlighting the brand's strong commitment to so-



cial responsibility. The drive, conducted between 11 AM and 5 PM, featured Blood Donation Camps, Tree Plantation Drives, and Food Distri-

bution programmes. The initiatives witnessed enthusiastic participation from local communities and volunteers across major cities including Hy-

derabad, Chennai, Bengaluru, Madurai, and Vijayawada, creating a significant social impact.

The event was attended by Business Head South Santosh Sharma, National Head CSR Priyesh Gamot, franchise partners Sai Varun and Sai Krishna, Manager Santhosh Deconda Arra, along with several community leaders and social representatives who supported the activities.

Founder and Managing Director of Hari Krishna Group, Ghanshyam Dholakia, said the initiative

reflects KISNA's philosophy of giving back to society while expanding its vision of "Har Ghar KISNA." CEO Parag Shah emphasised that meaningful growth comes from contributing to community wellbeing and environmental sustainability. Franchise partners Sai Varun Gaurishetty and Sai Krishna Narla stated that the CSR drive strengthened community connections while reinforcing KISNA's commitment to creating positive social impact beyond business operations.

Mrunal Thakur and Adivi Sesh seek divine blessings at Tirumala ahead of Dacoit release

Ahead of the release of their upcoming film "Dacoit", actors Mrunal Thakur and Adivi Sesh sought divine blessings at the revered Tirumala Venkateswara Temple.

The promotional journey of Dacoit began on a spiritual note as the two actors visited the temple to seek blessings at the advent of the film's campaign. The two stars were seen dressed in traditional Indian wear as they offered prayers at the temple.

"Every film is a leap of faith. We put years of work into something and then place it in the hands of the audience. Starting this journey at Tirupati felt right. It was important for us to begin with gratitude and seek blessings before stepping



into the whirlwind of promotions."

Sesh had earlier visited the Bhadrakali Temple in Warangal ahead of the release of his upcoming film.

Sesh has launched its first song, Rubaroo. The romantic track, picturised on Sesh and co-star Mrunal Thakur.

Directed by Shaniel Deo, Dacoit also stars Anurag Kashyap in a pivotal antagonist role.

Talking about the number, he said: "Rubaroo is special because it captures the emotional heartbeat of the film, the vulnerability, the connection, and the quiet in-

tensity between these characters. Launching promotions with this song felt right. Before we begin sharing this story with audiences, I wanted to take a moment to seek blessings and gratitude."

"We've poured a lot into this film, and I'm looking forward to everyone experiencing it in April."

Dacoit also stars Prakash Raj, Sunil, Atul Kulkarni, Zayn Marie Khan, and Kamakshi Bhaskarla, among others.

It traces the journey of an angry convict determined to seek revenge on his ex-girlfriend, who betrayed him. As he crafts a perilous plan to trap her, the story evolves into an emotionally intense tale of love, betrayal, and vengeance.

Big B shares light-hearted take on life's 'speed breakers' and 'sixers'

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

Megastar Amitabh Bachchan reflected on the curious ways in which everyday language borrows from cars and cricket, observing how common expressions often stem from the world of sport and the road.

Taking to his blog, Amitabh shared a motley of phrases used in daily life, such as hard work has "hit a speed breaker" to "pressing the accelerator" when picking up pace, or "putting the brakes on" at the first sign of trouble. "So much still to learn and understand... each moment shifts gears so to say... (why the heck do we always give similes related to a car, or games)...!! 'my work and hard work has come upon with a speed breaker,' 'i was trundling along quite well, but decided to speed up, so pressed the accelerator', 'when i sense trouble, i just put my brakes on'." He also



pointed to expressions like "running out of gas" when energy dips and not appreciating "backseat driving" when unsolicited opinions come in. "I just got a green light for my venture, and took off," he wrote.

Drawing parallels with cricketing terms, the thespian mentioned how remarks such as "that was a bouncer" when something goes over one's head, "well left" when choosing not to engage, or calling an achievement a "sixer" have seamlessly become part of common speech. "ok! so that was a bouncer" (the ball that is bowled going above the

head of the batsman - so what was said just went above my head.. could not understand) 'well left..' (did not attempt to put bat to ball, and allowed the ball to go past batsman in crease, in cricket terms.. a decisive decision for not getting involved, in what was suggested) 'O boy that's a sixer!' (in cricket when the batsman hits the ball beyond the boundary of the playing field, without a bounce, six runs a max - your achievement was incredible) and similarly.. bowled.. self goal.. hit wicket.. run out.." "The vocabulary of the human.

Kangana Ranaut stuns in a traditional vibrant Patola saree

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

Actress and politician Kangana Ranaut on Saturday shared a few pictures of herself looking resplendent in a traditional Patola saree, as she shared glimpses from the Rising Bharat Summit 2026. Captioning the post, "Rising Bharat Summit 2026 Do watch when you can," Kangana shared the gorgeous pictures. In the pictures,

Kangana is seen draped in a vibrant red and yellow Patola saree, wearing intricate geometric patterns, paired with a rich red blouse with gold detailing on the sleeves. She accessorised her look with elaborate traditional jhumkas embellished with pearls and green stones along with a delicate bindi, and a gold wristwatch. With her hair half let loose and neatly tied back, with minimal make-up, Kan-



gana exuded grace and elegance.

The actress who is extremely vocal about her thoughts, had recently shared a post on her social media account, advising people to "stay away from zombies", forget saying that many are "roaming around without any ambitions or emotional intelligence." Sharing a note on social media, Kangana wrote, "I don't usually give gyan but just in case you need to

read this... 1. no matter how smart or successful you are if you need an upgrade in life, look for those who are smarter than you and sincerely admire them, if possible seek their company." She added, "2. every one looks normal from the outside but lots of zombies are roaming around without any ambitions or emotional intelligence, stay away from those who make you feel apologetic for

being successful / gorgeous/kind. There is no shame in not having any friends. Don't expect extraordinary behaviour from ordinary people."

The actress concluded, "3. lastly own your story, don't see yourself from others eyes, look at yourself like you are your own child and now say honestly what do you really desire for yourself. Be kind to yourself there is a reason for your existence,

you are meaningful. Hare Krishna"

The actress, apart from her acting skills, is also known for her outspoken views, and often is seen sharing motivational and philosophical thoughts with her followers through her posts on social media. On the professional front, Kangana made her Bollywood debut with Gangster and has been a part of the Hindi film industry for more two decades.

NZ Enter Semis After Pakistan's 5-Run Win

SRILANKA
Wakeup telangana

Pakistan's thrilling win over Sri Lanka on Saturday proved insufficient to keep their T20 World Cup campaign alive, as New Zealand clinched a semifinal berth due to a superior net run rate. Despite defending a massive total and producing one of the tournament's most gripping finishes, Pakistan bowed out with a net run rate of -0.123 compared to New Zealand's 1.390.

Chasing a daunting 213, Sri Lanka mounted a fierce comeback led by captain Dasun Shanaka and Pavan Rathnayake. At 101-5 in the 12th over, Pakistan appeared firmly in control and on course to restrict Sri Lanka below the required 147 runs needed to qualify ahead of New Zealand. However, Rathnayake's steady 58 off 37 balls and Shanaka's explosive late assault turned the match into a nail-biter.



In a dramatic final over against Shaheen Shah Afridi, Shanaka smashed four consecutive boundaries — 4, 6, 6, 6 — bringing Sri Lanka within striking distance. With six runs required off the last two deliveries, Shanaka missed a scoop attempt before leaving the final yorker believing it to be wide, only for it to be ruled legal. Pakistan sealed victory by five runs, though the result ended their tournament hopes. Earlier, Pakistan posted their highest-ever T20 World Cup total of 212-8

after a record-breaking opening partnership between Sahibzada Farhan and Fakhar Zaman. The duo added 176 runs — the highest opening stand in men's T20 World Cup history — surpassing the previous mark of 175 set by New Zealand's Tim Seifert and Finn Allen. Farhan starred with a blistering 100 off 60 balls, striking five sixes and nine fours, while also surpassing Virat Kohli's record for most runs in a single T20 World Cup edition. With 383 runs so far, includ-

ing two centuries and two half-centuries, Farhan emerged as Pakistan's standout performer despite the team's early exit. Zaman contributed a rapid 84 off 42 balls after being promoted to open the innings.

Sri Lanka fought back strongly at the death, claiming eight wickets for just 36 runs in the final overs. Dilshan Madushanka picked up 3-33 while Shanaka added two wickets. Pakistan captain Salman Agha admitted batting inconsistencies hurt the side throughout the tournament, particularly in the middle order. Sri Lanka, already eliminated, exited the competition after a spirited performance that earned applause from home supporters. England, New Zealand, and South Africa have already secured semifinal spots, while defending champions India face the West Indies for the final place.

Minister Vivek Venkataswamy Inaugurates Spotlight Cricket Ground at Pratap Singaram

MEDCHAL
Wakeup telangana

A newly constructed spotlight cricket ground was inaugurated at Pratap Singaram village under Pocharam Municipality in Medchal-Malkajgiri district by Telangana State Labour, Employment, Training and Factories Minister Vivek Venkataswamy. The ground has been developed with modern floodlighting facilities, enabling young players to practice and play matches even during evening hours. A large number of local youth and cricket enthusiasts from nearby areas attended the inauguration ceremony. Encouragement to Youth Addressing the gathering, the Minister stated that providing sports infrastructure in rural areas would help bring out hidden talent among youth. He emphasized that sports not only build physical fitness but also instill discipline and self-confidence. He reiterated that the government is



giving priority to sports development and expressed hope that more such initiatives would be undertaken. Dignitaries Attend The event was attended by former Medchal MLA Malipeddi Sudheer Reddy, Medchal Zilla Parishad Chairman Malipeddi Sharath Chandra Reddy, and Hyderabad Cricket Association President Amarnath Narasimha Reddy, among others. The dignitaries conveyed their best wishes to the youth and encouraged them to excel in the field of sports. Training Facilities Speaking on the occasion, organizer Ram Lakshman said the ground was es-



tablished to provide structured training to students passionate about cricket in the Pratap Singaram area. Experienced coaches will offer guidance ranging from basic skills to advanced-level training. The aim, he said, is to prepare talented players for district and state-level competitions. Boost to Rural Sports Development The establish-

ment of the spotlight cricket ground brings city-level sports infrastructure closer to rural youth. With the availability of evening practice sessions, the facility is expected to greatly benefit students and aspiring cricketers in the region. The organizers expressed gratitude to the guests, players, and the public for making the event a success.

Asaduddin Owaisi slams PM Modi's Israel visit amid escalating tension in Iran



All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) leader Asaduddin Owaisi sharply criticized Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Israel, calling it "untimely" and a "betrayal of India's long-standing foreign policy." Owaisi highlighted India's nearly eighty-year history of neutrality in West Asia and questioned the rationale for abandoning this stance amid escalating Iran-Israel tensions.

The MP warned that nearly 10 million Indians residing in Gulf countries could perceive the visit negatively and stressed that Modi's presence could send the wrong diplomatic message during a sensitive period. He further remarked that if the Prime Minister's aircraft had been in the air during the conflict escalation, the seriousness of the situation would have been clearer.

Owaisi also accused Israel of politically exploiting the visit to bolster its strategic narrative, citing statements by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. He condemned the Indian government for lacking foresight and risk assessment, pointing out that several media personnel who accompanied the PM are now stranded due to the worsening conflict. Owaisi's comments underscore growing political debate in India over foreign policy decisions in volatile regions, highlighting the need for cautious diplomatic engagement and prioritizing national and citizen interests abroad.

Pista House Rush



Large numbers of fasting devotees gathered before Iftar to purchase haleem at the iconic Pista House near Charminar in Hyderabad, carrying the traditional Ramzan delicacy along with Iftari to their homes and other locations to break their fast with family and friends.—Photo: Mir zulfequar ali

Ensure 80% Local Jobs At Kazipet Coach Factory: Harish

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Former minister T. Harish Rao on Saturday demanded that the Centre ensure an 80 per cent job quota for local youth in the upcoming Kazipet Railway Coach Factory. Addressing the 'Koluvala Kosam Kotlata' (Fight for Jobs) protest at Kazipet Junction in Hanamkonda, held under the leadership of former government chief whip Dasyam Vinay Bhaskar, Harish Rao warned of a statewide 'Gully to Delhi' agitation if the demand was ignored.

The BRS leader said the coach factory was realised after a prolonged struggle during the Telangana



movement led by K. Chandrashekar Rao. He noted that although the project was sanctioned in 1982, it was neglected for decades despite repeated railway budgets. He pointed out that establishing the factory at Kazipet was a mandatory provision under the AP Reorganisation Act, 2014. Criticising both the BJP

and Congress, Harish Rao accused them of neglecting Telangana's interests. He said that while the Centre had earlier claimed the region did not require a coach factory, a similar unit was sanctioned in Latur, Maharashtra. He added that the previous BRS government had already acquired and handed over 150 acres of

land to the Railways. During the protest, the BRS presented a five-point charter of demands, including an 80 per cent local job quota, employment for families who surrendered land, immediate declaration of Kazipet as a Railway Division, priority for local entrepreneurs in railway trade, and a halt to the transfer of local employees to other regions. Former MLA Vinay Bhaskar urged Congress and BJP MPs from the state to press the Union Ministry to issue a government order on job reservations and called for the establishment of specialised training centres to equip local youth with the required technical skills.

Free Meal Drive Held at Uppal Ring Road



HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Under the aegis of Prema Hastham Foundation, a humanitarian initiative providing free meals to the underprivileged is being conducted on the last day of every month in and around the Uppal Ring Road area. Led by Founder and Chairman Vijay Darla and Dr. Elizabeth Darla, the service program has been carried out consistently for the past six months. On each occasion, approximately 200 to 300 destitute individuals, beggars, and daily wage pedestrians are served freshly prepared meals along with water packets. Addressing the

gathering, Chairman Vijay Darla stated that the initiative was launched after recognizing the hardships faced by many impoverished individuals who struggle for a single meal a day. He emphasized that alleviating hunger is both a moral responsibility and a social duty. The foundation also aims to expand its outreach in the coming months to serve a greater number of beneficiaries. Prominent members including C.H. Nageswara Rao, Parimala, O.J. Moses, T. Roja, K. Rajarao, Ribka Rani, Kola Jaya, Jimmy Kaushik, Neha, and Naomi actively participated in the program and contributed to its successful execution.

Protect seed farm lands of T'gana: Rythu Commission to govt

The Telangana Rythu Commission urged the government to protect 1,629 acres of 'seed farm' lands spread across five districts.

A delegation met Chief Secretary K Ramakrishna Rao in Dr BR Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat on Saturday, February 28, and submitted its report on seed farms to the chief secretary, expressed concerns regarding more than 701 acres of seed farm lands not finding their way into the revenue records of Bhu Bharati.

They also flagged the threat looming over 700 acres of seed farm land located in Malthummeda village of Nagaredipet mandal in Kamareddy district, which, they said, was at risk of being grabbed, as informed by local farmers.

During a review meeting on seed farms held with Agriculture Department officials at the Commission's office on February 10, the Commission found that, apart from the lands in Malthummeda, seed farm lands in other locations were also under threat of encroachment.

The Commission requested the Chief Secretary to protect the seed farm lands and to lay fencing around the lands spread across eight locations in five districts of Telangana.

Police busts pan shops selling tobacco to minors

The EAGLE Force of the Telangana Police on Saturday, February 28, caught three pan shop owners near a school in Mahabubnagar district selling cigarettes and gutka to minors, even as a separate inquiry has revealed a growing problem of banned e-cigarette use among school students in the district. Acting on a complaint, the police conducted surveillance on the three pan shops near ZPHS Boys School in Baderpally, Jadcherla, and caught the owners red-handed selling tobacco products to minors within 100 metres of the school premises. Cases have been registered under the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA) and the Juvenile Justice Act. The e-cigarette concern surfaced separately when intelligence inputs flagged students accessing the banned devices. An inquiry traced the supply source, and district-wise sales data was compiled and shared with field units for further action.

9 arrested for selling forged car insurance documents in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The special team of the Jeedimetla Police on Saturday, February 28, conducted a raid and arrested nine people for selling forged insurance documents to car owners in Hyderabad.

The accused have been identified as Ragula Ravi, T Giridhar Goud, Shiva Kumar, R Mahesh, K Babu Rao, S K Maikyaa Rao, M Narsimha, K Nagaraju and J Kishan.

According to the Station House Officer (SHO) of Jeedimetla Police Station, G Mallesh, upon receiving special information, they conducted a raid at NLB Nagar, Jeedimetla and other areas. "During the raid, a

large number of fake and forged vehicle insurance documents of various companies and stamps were seized, along with other incriminating material used for preparing such documents. The accused were found to be operating in an organised manner and targeting vehicle owners who were in urgent need of insurance renewals," said G Mallesh.

By issuing the fake insurance policies, the accused not only cheated the public but also caused potential losses to insurance companies and created serious legal and financial consequences to vehicle owners. In case there is an accident, the company will not pay any compensation.

Govt gives ex gratia to families of 44 killed in Madina bus fire

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy handed over an ex gratia of Rs 5 lakh each to the families of the victims of the bus fire accident that claimed 44 lives during their Umrah pilgrimage in Madina, Saudi Arabia, on November 17 last year.

Mohammed Abdul Shoib, the lone survivor of the accident, was given an ex gratia of Rs 3 lakh. A total of Rs 2.23 crore ex gratia amount was handed over to the fam-



ilies at the Dr BR Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat on Saturday, February 28. A total of 45 pilgrims were travelling in the bus when it collided with a diesel tanker on the outskirts of Madina city. Among them, 16 were

men, and 28 were women. Ten children were among those who lost their lives in the horrific accident.

Speaking about the immediate steps taken by the government after the incident, Chief Minister Revanth said the Telangana

Haj Committee and the General Administration Department of the Telangana Secretariat coordinated with officials of the Indian Consulate in Jeddah and set up a control room there.

"Minorities Welfare Minister Mohammed Azharuddin was immediately flown to Madina to coordinate with Saudi authorities and ensure that the final rites and burial of the victims were performed at the Jannatul Baqi graveyard in Madina in accordance with Islamic traditions," he said.

Urban naxals in Telangana education commission: Bandi Sanjay

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Saturday, February 28, alleged that individuals with "urban Naxal" ideology were part of the state-appointed Education Commission, as he criticised the panel's recommendations as "unilateral and harmful to poor students."

Addressing a press conference at the BJP state office, Sanjay claimed

that the commission had prepared its report without consulting teachers or other stakeholders. Sanjay said the Education Commission members did not hold discussions with teachers or concerned groups before finalising the report. He objected to the panel's observation that teachers' salaries were high, terming the remark unjustified.

He also opposed the recommendation to raise the pass marks from 35 to 45, stating that such a move



would adversely impact students from economically weaker sections. "If the pass marks are increased, it is poor students who will suffer the most," he said. The Union Minister alleged that the Education department has been

functioning without a minister for the past two years. Referring to the previous government's tenure, he claimed that even sanitation workers were not appointed in the department.

"There are schools without teachers. Where teachers are posted, there are no students. And where both are present, basic facilities are lacking," he said.

He further alleged that the government had failed to release retirement

benefits due to teachers and clear pending fee reimbursement dues. According to him, parents are unable to bear the burden of high fees charged by private schools amid weaknesses in the public education system. On the Maoist issue, Sanjay accused chief minister Revanth Reddy of adopting a "dual policy." While welcoming the move to honour surrendered Maoists, he alleged that including individuals with "urban Naxal" ideology in offi-

cial commissions amounted to indirectly encouraging such views. In a sweeping set of recommendations that could significantly reshape schooling and higher education in the State, the Telangana Education Commission on February 27 submitted its report to chief minister Revanth Reddy, proposing wide-ranging reforms in teacher recruitment, promotions, examinations, language policy and university governance.

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